

## Letters to the Editor

### Vote no on home rule

To the Editor:  
I did attend one of the hearings of the committee, appointed by the Morrow County court, to investigate whether or not we want home rule as compared to the elective system we have now in our county government.

Since the committee's task was to investigate and propose the kind of home rule they thought would be best, the discussion centered on the details of what home rule is. With my understanding of the structure of our current county government, it is very difficult to agree that we should throw out our current system of governing.  
It seems to me that we are

best served by elected officers rather than an appointed manager. Why? You can appeal and discuss with an elected official of a department, while you would have to discuss your concerns with a board under home rule. Also a good manager wines and dines his board, so I believe a manager of a county that has home rule would be vastly powerful and unresponsive to citizens' concerns.

We as citizens of Morrow County had better become more involved with the government we have now, before we vote another system in.

Vote no on home rule.

Sincerely,  
(s) Don Peterson  
Ione

### Vote no on home rule charter

To the Editor:  
I urge voters of Morrow County to vote no on the home rule charter because:

First-changes always seen better. We don't find the problems until we have them (too late).

Second-we were the first county in Oregon (and should have been the last) to have a county unified school district, because of the advice of our "experts" (district attorney and school superintendent) and look what troubles that has caused us.

Third-proponents claim a reduction in personnel and costs. Have you ever seen a bureaucratic reorganization with less people or costs? We will have

five commissioners and a manager all campaigning to keep their positions (more politics).

Fourth-proponents claim freedom from state regulation. County governments must still operate according to state rules.

Fifth-no small rural counties have adopted this yet, even though several wanted to gain more freedom to effect range-land reform.

Sixth-estimates show when fully implemented, the cost will be about \$17,500 more per year.

Seventh-the phrase "home rule" sounds wonderful, but our present system has people as close to their government as they can be.

(s) Dr. Harold S. Huber  
Tooth Acres Ranches

### Home rule gives citizens control

To the Editor:  
The March 12 mail ballot includes two Morrow County issues that require the attention of local citizens.

First is the Morrow County levy outside the tax base. The tax base, together with the levy totals the same tax asking as last year. The county budget committee (which includes the county court) worked very hard to hold the line on our property taxes. We trimmed \$965,000 from the various department requests. Within the limitations of our present form of county government, we were able to make some headway in instituting economies of government expenditures. I wholeheartedly urge the taxpayer's support for this ballot measure.

The second issue is a propos-

ed home rule charter for our county. While there are some parts of the charter I would prefer to be different, one of the primary advantages of home rule over the existing system is that home rule charters can be amended. If something doesn't work, it can be changed or eliminated. It puts the control of our county government in the hands of the citizens, instead of operating as a subdivision of the state. I believe that home rule will give us the opportunity to work on economies of government expenditures. I strongly support the home rule ballot measure, and ask you to do the same.

Sincerely,  
(s) John A. Prag  
member, Morrow County  
Budget Committee and  
Home Rule Charter Committee

### Bridal show held at Ione UCC

The Ione United Church of Christ celebrated another of their centennial events on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 25, with a bridal show and tea.

Members of the church and women married in the church modeled their gowns. Several high school girls also assisted in modeling.

Those modeling were Roseanne Baker, Kara Miller, Dawn Sheirbon, Leila Gribscov, Stephanie Haguewood, Shelby Krebs, Meghan Proudfoot, Debbie Morgan, Lea Mathieu, Loa Henderson, Nova Rietmann, Jessica Krebs and Brenna Rietmann. Solos were sung by Katie Garrett and Loa Henderson. Musical accompaniments were played by Helen Martin, Helen Heide- man and Yvonne Morter.

Nancy Miller was chairperson of the afternoon with Maureen Krebs as narrator. Betty Rietmann and Lisa Rietmann were in charge of the tea table. Helen Martin, Lucile Rietmann and Dot Halvorsen served. Jean Jepsen and Katherine Lindstrom decorated the rooms. Candlelighters were Kelly Morgan and Jan Garrett.

### Opposes four-day school week

To the Editor:

According to the recent articles concerning the Morrow County School District's four-day week (4DW), I am in the minority. It is not a popular opinion among teachers and students, but I oppose the 4DW.

I am concerned especially about the primary grades where attention spans are short and repetition is critical to learning. A three-day hiatus (Thursday to Monday) creates a gap and "starting over" becomes mandatory.

It's my feeling that surveying children (my son, age 10, did complete a survey at school) is not the correct way to decide if the 4DW works.

There is a difference between primary, middle and high school students. The high school students do not have "study halls" built into their

curriculums and with much of their learning occurring during independent study time, the 4DW may be reasonable. For the younger children, four very long days with the three-day gap doesn't make sense.

I have other concerns about the schools' loss of music and art programs, loss of drivers' training program, etc., but first and foremost is the need to abandon the 4DW.

If you feel the same or want more questions answered, such as how are we doing on nationwide tests with the 4DW, I urge you to contact your school board members and superintendent Chuck Starr before we have the 4DW around for another year. The issue is to be voted on at the March 11 school board meeting.

Sincerely,  
(s) Dr. Jeanne S. Berretta  
Heppner

### Vote for Buchanan

To the Editor:

With all the reporting in Alaska, Iowa and New Hampshire, it is easy to feel totally remote from the political process to elect the next president of the United States. It is being suggested that we will be wasting our vote if we vote for Bob Buchanan. I was beginning to be sold on this viewpoint until the recent political ad from the

Bob Dole campaign. What does it say about Bob Dole? He wants to be president of the U.S. without committing himself to anything. At least Bob Buchanan has something to say and is willing to stand behind it. Vote for Bob Buchanan and send some money to his campaign.

Sincerely,  
(s) Don Peterson  
Ione

### Would they refuse to save lives?

To the Editor:

If my three grandchildren had been trapped in the upstairs of the Kilkenny home when it was burning, would

the Fire Department's decision have remained the same, and still refused to come and save their lives?

(s) Vesta Kilkenny  
Portland

### Is this what our society has become?

To the Editor:

I realize we live in a world that needs rules and regulations. We must set guidelines and laws in order for our communities to run smoothly. We have budgets and only so much tax revenue in which to operate. I suppose we can't afford to take every situation on an individual basis. We don't have the time and money for that. Lines must be drawn somewhere I guess.

But how very, very sad that

in a supposedly "close knit and caring community" we forced a family to stand and watch their beautiful home burn down because they were just a little over the fire district line. How depressing. Rules and regulations aside, this makes no sense to me. Is this what our society has become? Especially our small community? If so, I'm ashamed.

Sincerely,  
(s) Cheryl (Shelly) Rietmann

### Parvo alert

To the Editor:

I just wanted to alert anyone who lives on or near Cowins Street (by the dam in Heppner) or walks their animals on it.

I made a grave mistake by being a month late for my large puppy's (Keno) second parvo shot. My error cost him a very sad death.

There is parvo in the ground and area around my house now (510 Cowins) and any dog, and I believe, cat, who hasn't

been vaccinated will most likely pick it up and die.

Please, either get their shots done at the vet or pick up the shots, very inexpensively, at either Greed Feed & Seed or MCGG and do them at home. It's awful to watch a family pet that's very much loved suffer and die when there's no reason for it.

Please, don't be neglectful like me; it's heart-wrenching.

Thank you,  
(s) Shanna Paullus

### Choice is clear-home rule or state rule

To the Editor:

Morrow County's home rule charter proposal, Ballot Measure 25-19, provides an important opportunity for voters to further efficient, locally controlled government.

Currently, the organization of Morrow County is dictated by state statutes that were written by the Oregon Legislature more than 100 years ago. "Statutory counties" such as Morrow County must comply with these laws even if they do not allow the most efficient county organizations or the best use of our county tax dollars.

There are not many businesses that could be optimally run today using the business structures and processes commonly utilized 100 years ago. Of course, the same is true of government. In 1958, Oregon voters recognized the importance of change in government when they overwhelmingly approved an amendment to the state constitution that gave local voters the power to bypass the old state statutes and determine the structure of their counties through the adoption of "home rule charters".

In practice, the proposed Morrow County home rule charter will allow our elected representatives, the county board of commissioners, to determine the best and most efficient organization for the county. For example, county functions and services may be more effectively and efficiently delivered by streamlining the operations of several existing state mandated departments into a single consolidated department, thereby saving the costs of administrative duplication. Currently, state statues

restrict our locally elected commissioners from making such changes.

The charter will also increase citizen representation and diversity on the board and commissioners by expanding its membership from the current three commissioners to five.

I have heard and read the concerns of some citizens who are opposed to particular provisions in the proposed charter. I believe reasonable people can disagree on such matters. And, herein lies the greatest strength of a home rule charter; it allows us, the citizens of the county, to debate and decide the type of county government we want, both now and in the future.

After the charter is adopted, voters who believe changes are needed will be empowered by Oregon's initiative petition process to propose and promote amendments to the county charter through the local ballot box. With this in mind, I encourage all Morrow County voters, including those who may be skeptical towards the proposed charter, to support its adoption with the knowledge that the charter will provide local empowerment and a process for change in county government not currently available.

Thomas Jefferson once observed that the government closest to the people is the best government. I believe that voter approval of Measure 25-19 will further Jefferson's vision by investing new powers of self-determination with the people of Morrow County.

The choice is clear: "home rule" or "state rule".

Sincerely,  
(s) Gary Marks  
Heppner

### MC Museum sponsoring geneology expert during St. Pat's Celebration

The Morrow County Museum has invited geneological research expert Pete Young to be available Friday and Saturday of St. Patrick's weekend to advise beginners and experienced researchers alike on the methods and resources of geneological investigation. The museum will be open 1-5 p.m. Friday, March 15; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 16; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, March 17.

The museum is currently in the process of organizing all of the print, film and photographic elements of its collec-

tion to provide a more accessible resource for history and geneology researchers.

Family bibles, school annuals, business records, school district records, microfilms of county newspapers, books by and about Morrow County citizens as well as the Museum's "family files" and photo collection, and more general works of historical interest are being inventoried and housed in a centralized location near the microfilm reader/printer and staff work area.

||| Donald J. Carlson, D.P.M.  
Medicine and Surgery of the Foot

will be at Heppner Clinic on March 13  
to treat all foot problems  
676-5504 Pioneer Memorial Clinic 567-8750

## Big moments in our lives here in Eastern Oregon:



Buying our first house. But we probably couldn't have done it without the help of Bank of Eastern Oregon.



Our first new car. We were so proud of it. Bank of Eastern Oregon made owning it easy and affordable for us.



The day I opened my new business. I was able to make it with the support I got from Bank of Eastern Oregon.



The day our son, Cedrick, got accepted to military school. We financed the tuition at Bank of Eastern Oregon.

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"Around the corner, not around the state."

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